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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) A seat assembly for a motor vehicle seat, having
  - a seat frame which defines a seat surface for a motor vehicle occupant, and
  - a pivotably mounted backrest which can be folded about a pivot axis onto the seat surface, characterized in that the pivot axis (S) is moved along a predetermined path when the backrest (R) is folded forward onto the seat surface (F).
2. (Original) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the pivot axis (S) is formed by a physical subassembly (10, 20) of the seat assembly.
3. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the pivot axis (S) is formed by a bearing spindle (10) via which the backrest (R) is mounted on a frame subassembly (2).
4. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the pivot axis (S) is positively guided along the predetermined path when the backrest (R) is folded forward.

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5. (Original) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the pivot axis (S) is positively guided by means of a guide device (20) which extends along the predetermined path.

6. (Original) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the guide device (20) is formed by a guide slot.

7. (Original) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the pivot axis (S) is positively guided by means of a guide element (27) via which the pivot axis (S) is connected to a frame subassembly (2) and which is moved when the backrest (R) is folded forward.

8. (Original) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the guide element (27) is of longitudinally stretched-out design.

9. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 7 ~~or 8~~, characterized in that the guide element (27) is formed by a guide lever.

10. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the backrest (R) is additionally connected outside the pivot axis (S) to a frame subassembly (2) in an articulated manner.

11. (Original) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the backrest (R) is connected outside the pivot axis (S) to the frame subassembly (2) via a coupling element (23) which extends from the backrest (R) to the frame

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subassembly (2) and is moved when the backrest (R) is folded forward.

12. (Original) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the coupling element (23) is formed by a coupling lever.

13. (Original) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the backrest (R) is connected outside the pivot axis (S) to the frame subassembly (2) via a guide device (25) which guides a section (16) of the backrest (R) when it is folded forward.

14. (Original) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 13, characterized in that the guide device (25) is formed by a guide slot.

15. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in ~~one of claims 10 to 14~~ claim 10, characterized in that the movement of the pivot axis (S) along the predetermined path when the backrest (R) is folded forward is controlled by the interaction of the backrest (R) with the frame subassembly (2) outside the pivot axis (S).

16. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in ~~one of claims 10 to 15~~ claim 10, characterized in that the pivot axis (S) is positively guided along the predetermined path by means of a guide device (20) stretched out along this path or by means of a guide element (27) via which the pivot axis (S) is connected to the frame subassembly (2), and in that the movement of the pivot axis (S) along the predetermined path is controlled

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by means of a coupling element (23) or by means of a guide device (25), by means of which element or by means of which device the backrest (R) is connected outside the pivot axis (S) to the frame subassembly (2).

17. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the pivot axis (S) is moved on a closed path when the backrest (R) is folded forward.

18. (Original) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 17, characterized in that the pivot axis (S) is moved from one end (20a) to another end (20b) of an open curved path and back to the first end (20a) of the curved path when the backrest (R) is folded forward.

19. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that, when the backrest (R) is folded forward, the pivot axis (S) is moved, at least during part of the folding movement, along a direction which is essentially opposed to the direction of the folding movement.

20. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized by means (21, 21a) for locking the pivot axis (S) in a position which corresponds to a backrest (R) swung up into a use position, and/or in a position which corresponds to a backrest (R) folded forward onto the seat surface (F).

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21. (Original) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 20, characterized in that the means (21, 21a) for locking the pivot axis (S) comprise a locking lever (21).

22. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that an adjusting device (4), by means of which the inclination of the swung-up backrest (R) can be adjusted between various use positions, is provided.

23. (Original) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 22, characterized by a locking device (5) for locking a previously set inclination of the backrest (R).

24. (Original) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 23, characterized in that the locking device is formed by the self-locking configuration of the adjusting device (4) or by a brake assigned to the adjusting device (4).

25. (Original) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 23, characterized in that a separate locking device (5), which interacts with the adjusting device (4), is provided.

26. (Original) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 25, characterized in that the locking device (5) comprises a primary locking element (51) which acts on the adjusting device (4) to lock the latter, and a secondary locking element (52) with which the primary locking element (51) can be locked in a position in which it acts on the adjusting device (4).

27. (Original) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 26, characterized in that the secondary locking element (52)

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disengages the primary locking element (51) from the adjusting device (4) in order to be able to change the inclination of the backrest.

28. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized by

- a pivotably mounted backrest (R) which can be adjusted in its inclination and has a front side (VO) serving to support a seat user's back, and
- a spring arrangement (D, DF) having at least one elastic element with which the backrest (R) is prestressed elastically in such a manner that it has the tendency to pivot forward and lean with its front side (VO) against the seat user's back, it being possible for the inclination of the backrest (R) to be adjusted counter to the action of the spring arrangement (D, DF) by the application of force to its front side (VO), and the spring arrangement (D, DF) acting on a gear element (104) which is coupled to the backrest (R) and which is assigned a locking device (105) with which the gear element (104) can be locked in different positions.

29. (Original) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 28, characterized in that, in the locked state of the locking device (105), the backrest is locked in its particular position of inclination.

30. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 28 ~~or 29~~, characterized in that, in the unlocked state of the locking device (105), the inclination of the backrest (R) can be adjusted.

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31. (Original) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 30, characterized in that the backrest (R) can be pivoted forward onto the gear element (104) under the action of the spring arrangement (D, DF).

32. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 30 ~~or 31~~, characterized in that the backrest (R) can be pivoted rearward counter to the action of the spring arrangement (D, DF) under the action of a compressive force on its front side (VO).

33. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in ~~one of claims 28 to 32~~ claim 28, characterized in that the gear element (104) is part of a gear arrangement (102, 104), in particular a lever arrangement, via which the spring arrangement (D, DF) is coupled to the backrest (R).

34. (Original) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 33, characterized in that the gear arrangement (102, 104) serves for transmitting a torque exerted on the gear element (104) by the spring arrangement (D, DF).

35. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in ~~one of claims 28 to 34~~ claim 28, characterized in that the gear element (104) is assigned a coupling (120, 121) by means of which the backrest (R) can be decoupled from the gear element (104) in such a manner that the backrest (R) can be folded forward in the direction of the seat surface (FL) of the motor vehicle seat without the gear element (104) being moved.

36. (Original) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 35, characterized in that the backrest (R), when it is decoupled

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from the gear element (104), is decoupled from the spring arrangement (D, DF), so that the latter does not act on the backrest (R).

37. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in ~~one of claims 28 to 36~~ claim 28, characterized in that the gear element (104) is assigned a coupling (120, 121) by means of which the backrest (R) can be decoupled from the gear element (104) in such a manner that the backrest (R) can be folded forward in the direction of the seat surface when the gear element (104) is locked by means of a locking device (105).

38. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in ~~one of claims 28 to 37~~ claim 28, characterized in that, in order to decouple the backrest (R) from the gear element (104), the pivot axis of the backrest (R), when the backrest (R) is folded forward, is moved along a predetermined path (120) which is preferably designed in such a manner that the movement of the pivot axis along the path (120) prevents a reaction of the pivoting movement of the backrest (R) on the gear element (104).

39. (Original) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 38, characterized in that the path (120) is formed by a guide device in which the pivot axis is guided in a manner moveable to the left.

40. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in ~~one of claims 35 to 37~~ claim 35, characterized in that the gear element (104) can be disengaged from the backrest (R), so that the gear element (104) is not connected to the backrest (R).



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41. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in ~~either of claims 39 and 40~~ claim 39, characterized in that locking means (103) are provided by means of which the coupling (120, 121) can be locked in a state in which the gear element (104) is coupled to the backrest (R).

42. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in ~~one of claims 39 to 41~~ claim 39, characterized in that locking means (103) are provided by means of which the coupling (120, 121) can be locked in a state in which the gear element (104) is decoupled from the backrest (R).

43. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in ~~claim 38 or 39 and 41 or 42~~, characterized in that the blocking means (103) act on the pivot axis of the backrest (R) and prevent the movement thereof along the path (120).

44. (Original) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 43, characterized in that the blocking means (103) are formed by a lever.

45. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in ~~one of claims 28 to 44~~ claim 28, characterized in that the locking device (105) of the gear element (104) has a primary locking element (151) and a secondary locking element (152), the primary locking element (151), in the locked state, acting on the gear element (104) and the secondary locking element (152) blocking the primary locking element (151) in the locked state.

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46. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in ~~one of~~  
~~claims 28 to 45~~ claim 28, characterized in that the gear element  
(104) is formed by a toothed segment lever (141).

47. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in ~~one of~~  
~~claims 28 to 46~~ claim 28, characterized in that the spring  
arrangement (D, DF) has a spring element which acts on the gear  
element (104).

48. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in ~~one of~~  
~~claims 28 to 47~~ claim 28, characterized in that the gear element  
(104) can be brought into engagement with the locking device  
(105) via a toothing (142).